San Marcos Free Press.

I. H. JULIAN,

SAN MARCOS, HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS.

PROPRIETOR.

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GENERAL DIRECTORY.

OFFICIAL.

CONGRESSMAN-STU DISTRICT : Hon. James F. Miller, of Gonzales County. ENATOR - 25TH DISTRICT: Hon. Geo. Pfeuffer, of Comal Co.

DEPRESENTATIVES -- 91ST DISTRICT: Hon. S. B. McBride, of Hays Co. Hou. J. N. Stagner, of Caldwell Co.

piermior count-15rn district. Hen. L. W. Moore, Presiding Judge, LaGrange. J. M. Bethany. Attorney, Austin Co.

TIMES OF HOLDING COURT. Hars .- 2d Mondays in March and September. COUNTY OFFICERS.

Ed R. Kone, Judge County Court. Jas. G. Burleson, Dist. and County Clerk. Owen Ford, County Attorney. R. S. Barber Sheriff. J. M. Turner, Deputy. S. Gock, Justice of the Feace Pre-W. M. Wyatt W. W. Slack. J. H. Patterson, County Treasurer. R. S. Fortson, Assessor. Jee, C. Eve, Surveyor.
T.J. McCarty, Com'r Precinct No. 1.
J.B. Ratliff. 2. J.B. Ratliff, J.R. Barleson, . . . 3:

W. R. Wood, J. F. Pitts, Constable Precinct No.1. Times of Holding County And Parcing Counts— Criminal County Court—1st Monday in each County Court for Civil and Probate business-3d Monday in January, March, May, July, September

Commissioners' Court-3d Mondays in February, May, August and November. Justice Court Precinct No. 1-1st Friday in each

month, San Marcos. Precinct No. 2-2d Friday in each month Mt. City.
" 3-8d " Wimberley's Mill
" 4-4th " Dripping Springs. TOWN OFFICERS.

Mayor-C. S. Cock. Council-W. O. Hutchison, G. W. Donalson, T. P. Dailey, D. A. Glover, Wm. Giesen. Marshal-T. M. Prince. Council meets the first Tuesday in each month.

MAHLS.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF, TO AND FROM SAN MARCOS POST OFFICE. Mails from Austin arrive at 1:10 P. M.; close at 12:30

" San Antonio arrive at 2:20 P. M.; close at 2:00 P. M Luling, arrives at 12 M., closes at 12:45. P. M. Above mails arrive and depart daily. Blanco, via Wimberley—departs Monday and Friday at 6 A. M. Arirves Tuesday and Saturday at 7 P. M.

General Delivery from 8 A. M., to 12 M., and from 1 P. M. to 5 P. M. Postoilles open on Sundays one hour after distribution of mails.

ALBERT HEATON, P. M. CHEURCHES.

METHODIST.—Preaching at the Methodist Church every Sabbath, Kev. Buckner Harris, Pastor. Sunday School at 9 o'clock, A.M. Class meeting Men's Prayer Meeting at 3 o'clock P. M. Prayer Meeting on Wednesday.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL .- Services 1st Sun-(a: St. Mark's Church), by the Rev. Mr. Allen, BAPTIST.-Preaching at the Baptist Church on the first and third Sundays in each month, Elder B. Hatcher, Pastor.

CATHOLIC, services 4th Sunday in each month, Rev. Father Morandi, pastor.

lThere are also Presbyterian and Christian Churches and congregations, but they have at present no regular pastors.

SOCIETIES.

San Marcos Lodge No. 342 meets Saturday on or before full meon. A. C. Danforth W. M. Albert Esson Secretary. San Marcos Chapter No. 129, meets Tuesday on or Schore full moon. P. J. C. Smith M. E. H. P. Albert Heaton, Secretary.

Hays Lodge K. of H. No. 1668, meets 2nd and 4th Thinks of each mouth. J. V. Hutchins, Dictator,

I.O. O. F. Mountain Lodge No. 154 meets every Stodey hight H.O. James, E. G. Albert Beaten Secretary. Perkins Encampment No. 53 meets 1st 3rd and 5th

Friday of each month. J. Ward, G. P. Alber Reston Secretary.

Order of Chosen Friends, Basil Dailer, C. C. Albert Heaton, Secretary.

JOE C. EVE, FOR SALE

FARMS AND RANCHES. Also one of the best places near San Marcos for a And swell my heart with lengths.
Sweet Elver of San Marcos !

THE RIVER SAN MARCOS.

BY MOLLIE E MOORE.

Far o'er the bills and toward the dying day, Set like a heart, a living heart, deep, deep Within the bosom of its wide prairies, Lies the Valley of San Marcos. And there, A princess roused from slumber by the kiss Of balmy Southern skies, the river springs From out her rocky bed, and hastens on Far down the vale, to give her royal hand In marriage to the waiting Guadalupe.

Like some grim giant keeping silent watch, While from his feet his recreant daughter flies, Above the heary mountain stands, his head Encircled by an emerald pointed crown Of cedars, strong as those of Lebanon, That bow their sombre crests, and woo the wind Drunken with fragrance from the vale below. About his brow, set like a dusky chain, The mystic Race-Paths run-his amulet-And nestled squarely 'gainst his rugged breast, Perched quaintly 'mong the great scarred rocks

that hang Like tombstones on the mountain-side, the nest The Farcox built still lingers, though the wing That swept the gathering dust from off our shield Hath long since dropped to dust! -Now wooed by dusky glooms on either side, Now whirling round the craggy banks, now staye By tangled vines that stretch their arms across, The river glideth farther from her sire. Below, an ancient MILL, with laggard wheels, Is mirrored in her glassy depths, and broad The mill-race reaches out his arms, all decked With pebble-stones, and fringed with purple flags And strives to bar her onward course-in vain, For, nerved with sudden fear, she springs, and

Her rainbow garments glitter in the sun, As on she pants toward the shallow ford.

And here, down sloping to the water's marge, The fields, all golden with the harvest, come; And here, the horseman, reining in his stood, At eye, will pause and mark the village spires Gleam golden in the setting sun, and far Across a deeply furrowed field will glance With idle eye upon a stately hill, That girt with cedars, rises like a king, To mark the further limit of the field. Twas there, between the hill and river, stood A shaded cottage; and its roof was low And dark, and vines that twined the porch but

To hide the bleskness of its wall. But then Twas home, and "Heaven is near us in our childhood ."

And I was but a child; and summer days, That since have oftentimes seemed long and sad, Were fleeter then than even the morning winds That sent my brother's fairy bark, well-balanced In safety down the river's tite. Alas! Is there, can there be aught in all the world To scothe the sick soul to such perfect rest As filled its early dreams? Is there no fount, Like that of old so madly sought by LEON, Where the worn soul may bathe and rise renewed

And up and down the banks before our door, Now gathering up the yellow lily buds, That lay like golden flagons on the stream, Now idly bending down the ragged sedge That rustled in the lazy summer breeze, And now among the grape-vines, where they hung In light festoons above the water-edge, With careless step 1 roamed.

Well I remember. Down where the river makes a sudden bend, Below the ford, and near the dusky road, Upon her bosom sleeps a fairy isle, Entwined about with snowy alder-boughs And tapestried with vines that bore a flower And tapestried with vines that bore a flower Whose petals looked like drops of blood, (We called it "Lady of the Bleeding Heart.") And through it wandered little careless paths That writhed like wounded snakes among the beds Of tufted grass; and o'er this living gem The very skies seemed bluer, and the waves. That rippled round it, threw up brighter spray. Upon the banks for hours I've stood, and longed To bask amid its shades, and when at last To bask amid its shades, and when at last
My brother dragged, with wondrous care, his boat,
Rude-fashioned, small, and furnished with one car,
Across the long slope from the stately hill
where it was built, no'er did Columbus' heart
Beat with a throb so wild upon that shore, Unknown to any save to him. as ours
When, with o'crwearied hands and labored breath We steered in safety o'er the dangerous way, And stood the monarchs of that fairy realm! My brother, how I wish our wayward feet Once more could feel that lordly pride—our bearts Once more know all their cravings satisfied!

Lweet Valley of San Marcos! few are the years Lweet valley of San Marcos! few are the years
That since have linked their golden hands and field
Like spirits down the valley of the past—
And yet it seems a weary time to me!
Sweet River of San Marcos! the openings see: Between the moss-hung trees, like golden paths That lead through Eden to Heaven's fairer fields, Show glimpses of the broad, free, boundless plains That circle thee around. Thine own prairies ! That circle thee around. Into oad part of the How my sad spirit would exult to bathe its wings, all heavy with the dust of care, Deep in their glowing beauty! How my heart, O'ershadowed with this cloud of gloom, would wake

To life anew beneath those summer skies ! My home is nestled now among the hills, My home is nestled now among the hills,
The wooded hills, like those of that fair State,
That queen among the daughters of the South,
That gave me birth; and gayly flits the breeze
Among the boughs of oaks whose trunks
Are wedded with the rings of centuries:
And maples, cloaked like princes, wave their flags
Above the serried armies of the fern.
That march along the forest stream, where low Above the scritch armies of the term,
That march along the forest stream, where low
The beeches sweep their brightly-gleaming leaves
And one tall pine, a sentinel, keeps watch

Before my very door.
The trees, the forest-trees! My heart bests full And high beneath their stately limbs! And yet, At times methinks our mountain air seems thick; And the green treases of our forest trees, And the green treases of our forest trees.

They choke my very breathing! Then, oh then
I fain would spurn my native shades, and fain
Would sweep with untamed wing across the brea
And beundless prairies of the West, and breathe
My freedom back beneath unshadowed skies!

Oh, River of my childhood! fair Valley-Queen! Oh. River of my childhood! fair Valley-Queen! Within thy bosom yet at morn the sun. Dips deep his silver beams, and on thy tide. At night, the atars, the yellow stars, are mirrored! Through emerald marshes yet thine addies curl. And yet that fairy isle in beauty elseps. (Like her of old who waits the waking hiss. Of some strucknight to break her magic sleep.) and yet beavy with purple cups, the flags. And yet beavy with purple cups, the flags. I broop down toward the Mill: But I—oh. I No more will wander by thy abores, nor float at twilight down thy glassy tide!—no more! And yet. San Marcos, when some river-flower, And swooning with its meetar drops, is laid nefore my eyes, its heauty searce is seen for iters which stain my eyellide, and for dreams which glide hefore me of thy fairy charms.

And swell my heart with longing.

FREE PRESS.

SAAC H. JULIAN. - - - Editor.

BAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT SAN MARCOS TEXAS AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

Explanation.

The paper herewith submitted has been prepared mostly for circulation among parties abroad desiring information concerning this part of Texas. The present season was not thought to be propitious for a full showing up of the business of San Marcos and the county generally; and this is therefore reserved for a more favorable occasion.

The main facts respecting soil, productions, etc., continued in this sheet were given us in 1874 or 1875 in a communication signed by the officers and other leading members of the Grange Association, which then existed in this county, viz: R. M. Caldwell, Geo. T. McGehee, J. A. Smith, C. B. Donalson, Ed. Burleson, S. D. Jackman and J. L. Connally.

No account of San Marcos or Hays county can be perfect which omits the fine poem of Mollie E. Moore, which we republish in the next column. We have several times copied it before, but our supply of copies was as often exhausted. The author -now Mrs. Davis-is perhaps the most spirited and original of Texas poets. As is indicated in the poem, she spent her childhood in this place, residing on the banks of the river just opposite the "stately hill," nowa part of the Wood-Cook property, and near the "fairy isle" described in the poem. Any one familiar with the scenery would at once recognize it in her description.

not be understood abroad, first as to the "Race-paths." These constitute one of the most singular features of our mountain scenery. Almost every woodland elevation throughout that region is encircled a considerable distance below its apex by one of these race-tracks. They bear a striking resemblance to those made by art, and some of them are quite as smooth and beautiful. The track around the hill referred to in the poem is the most beautiful we have seen. It is fully a mile in length and perfect in all respects. Inside, the hill crowned with cedars and other trees rises a good deal higher, and com-The mands a view of the "track." whole scene, though in a perfect state of nature, suggests preparation for a fair or horse-racing.-Again, "the nest the falcon built," though it has now disappeared, is remembered by our first settlers.

LOOK HERE! The best way of obtaining authentic information concerning any country, as all intelligent people know, is through its local newspapers. Not through one issue, merely but through the course of several months or a year. The truth in many ways will come out in a newspaper, whereas letters and circulars are apt to be onesided. To inquirers about Western Texas, therefore, we would say, sub-See terms on first page.

PREMIUM.

To all new subscribers for one year, cash in advance, we will send postpaid a copy of Kendall's celebrated "TEEATISE ON THE HORSE AND HIS DIREASER." It is a manual of 91 pages, of which 2,300,000 copies have been sold. The price is 25 cents, so that by accepting our offer you really get the FREE PARSE at the rate of \$1.75 per year.

Specimen copies sent on application. For terms, see top of first column.

Texas-A Truthful Pen Portrait.

The article descriptive of Hays County which we formerly published, being out of print, to meet a general demand we propose preparing another, with revisions and additions. We shall supplement the best and most authentic information we can obtain, by our own observations during over ten years past, and shall make it a point not to indulge in the exaggerations, pro or con, so common to writers concerning new regions of country. We believe great and interested parties giving false ideas ed upon a lovelier land than this. of Texas-wrong to people who have been led to come to the State by such misrepresentations, and wrong also to the State, which has sufficient merits to induce immigration without resort ing to false pretenses.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

ly begins with that of San Marcos. The bursting forth of the river, full near by, and its peerless beauty and puwriter in Scribner's Magazine for Jan-

others may contest the claim. For in- proved. stance we are told that Wm. Moon, who still resides in this county, built the first house in San Marcos, and it is still pointed out to the curious observer. There are two references near the T. G. McGehee, we believe, is concedopening of the peem which would ed to have been the first settler of the

through the instrumentality of General Burleson, then a member of the State Senate, and was named in honor of Col. Jack Hays, the noted Texas Ranger. and partly in cattle. Each settler reelection was held in August, 1848.

The years 1857, '58 and '59 were seasons of terrible drought, particularly the first named, when there was a total failure of crops. The war soon followed, continuing the period of diswas little immigration or progress. The first awakening was caused by the enterprise of Prof, Hollingsworth, in causing to be erected a large stone build ing on a commanding site, called Corothat of the town 1500.

AREA, LOCATION, ETC.

through it. About two-thirds of the county is occupied by rudimentary mountains, and covered with timber of various kinds, such as cedar, live oak, Spanish oak, elm, pecan, mesquite, and several other varieties of inferior quality. This mountainous section is also partially covered with grass, and interspersed, though at distant intervals, with creeks and rivers, affording fine opportunity for stock raising. The remaining one-third of the county is chiefly prairie, of fine soil, and will produce perhaps as great a variety of crops as almost any country in the world. The face of the country is beautiful and pioturesque in the extreme. We have seen many of the finest portions of the wrong has been done by unscrupulous Mississippi valley, but have never look-

PRODUCTIONS.

The valley and prairie lands are wonderfully productive. Here we see oats produce 30 to 60 bushels, corn 15 to 40, wheat 10 to 30, and sweet potatoes 75 to 150 per acre, cotton half a bale to a bale, and sorghum always two crops, and The history of Hays county natural- all growing side by side in the same field. Seldom can this be seen on the continent except in Texas, and no formed, from the foot of a mountain where perhaps to greater perfection than in this county. Then vegetables rity, conspired to make the spot a mark- of nearly all kinds do well. If cut ed one by nature. According to a short, as they frequently are, by the droughts of summer, the fall and winuary, 1874, as early as 1729 the Right ter gardens, unknown to more Northern Reverend Fathers, forming the College climes, often make ample compensation. of Santa Cruz of Queretaro, were Fruits, such as figs, peaches, plums, authorized to found three missions on grapes and some kinds of wild fruits the San Marcos, but the order was af- also do tolerably well, and some think terwards reseinded in favor of San An- that apples may by careful attention be tonio; but for which San Marcos, in- made to succeed. But Western Texas stead of the Alamo City, might have cannot be said to be a first rate fruit been the metropolis of Western Texas, country, except where facilities for irri-A place thus remarkable by nature, gation exist and are brought into use. of course was destined to become the There is no doubt however, but that, by site of an Anglo-American town, A the introduction of improved and carly Dr. Merriman appears to have been the varieties, fruit growing will become first settler, in the fall of 1846, but much more successful than it has yet

As a stock country this region is unsurpassed, having fine grass, pure water and short winters. All stock does well, and is usually healthy, and much attention is given to the introduction and improvement of all kinds of good stock. immediate vicinity, at the place where In fact, the old style of stock raising as he lately resided, a few miles down the it prevailed when the country was new, is being rapidly superseded by the Hays county was organized in 1848, growth, on a smaller scale, in inclosures, of improved varieties of stock. The mesquit grass-perhaps unrivaled among wild grasses-is yet abundant in most parts of the county, but around Prior to that date it was part of Travis | the county seat, and in the more thickand Bastrop counties. The Antonio ly settled neighborhoods, owing to a su-Veremendi League was purchased by perabundance of stock and extensive in-Gen. Burleson and William Lindsey, closures, the range is getting scarce, and 640 acres appropriated for a town and will have to be supplemented by site. They paid for it partly in cash winter pastures of rye, barley, wheat or oats, all of which grow luxuriantly. ceived a building lot free. Henry Me- and form an admirable substitute. By Cullough was stationed here with a the aid of these, and feeding for a short company of rangers, and a log house, time, there need never be any scarcity used as a commissary department, and of fat beeves, or the best of milk and a bar-room in a tent, constituted the butter; but there is a general neglect of settlement up to April, 1847. The first these simple, common sense precautions. We believe more money could be made from a small dairy, conducted on these principles, than is now done from many a large corn or cotton plantation, If raising poultry were combined with it there could be no question on tress. Afterwards for some years there the subject, for there is always a great scarcity of milk, butter, chickens and eggs during the winter, and they commrnd high prices.

STREAMS, ETC.

The county is well watered for Texas. nal Institute, and starting a successful having many springs, creeks and rivers. high school in it. This induced per- Its principal streams are the San Marsons to come and settle in the town. cos and Blanco rivers, Onion creek and From that time to about 1874 the course Bear creek, all affording lasting water scribe for the FREE PRESS. Its reg. of San Marcos was onward, till from a of a pure and crystal-like appearance. ular issues are nearly twice the size small hamlet of a few hundred inhabi- and abounding in fish. They also afford of the present, and are filled with tants, the population had reached in fine water power for mills and machineinteresting local and general matter. 1880, 1232, that of the county 7,555, ry. The San Marcos, especially, is of with indications of a far more rapid surpassing beauty, and deserves more growth in view of the advent of railroad than a passing notice. Breaking out, communication. The population of the as it does, a full-fledged river, from the county, is now no doubt fully 8000, and south side of a mountain, in quantities of pure crystal spring water sufficient to run a large amount of machinery, Hays is one of the smallest counties of makes it wonderfully attractive and Texas, containing only about 680 square valuable. It now has many mills and miles. The 30th parallel of latitude gins in successful operation located upon and the 98th of longitude both pass it. Water can also be found by digging